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6 February 1959

TYURA TAM and KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA Test Heads and Ranges

1. While some of the subject areas have been covered by photography, many technological changes are believed to have occurred since then (seventeen months). Improved scale of current equipment and improved read-out equipment and techniques will provide substantially greater detail. Coverage of the subject areas may well give us information on missile characteristics (possibly including payload capabilities), number of stages and sizes of larger missiles, types of fuel used, guidance systems, communications and instrumentation employed, special handling equipment and techniques, and crew training activity. In addition, we believe we may discern leads and/or indications concerning the character of logistic support of operational ICBMs, particularly as pertains to the degree of rail mobility, which would assist in subsequent search for operational sites. Incidental coverage of STALINGRAD at the KAPUSTIN YAR range head may also provide information on the missile assembly and/or production.

2. The thesis for coverage of the subject areas also rests on the belief that in these areas we are likely to learn more about the state of the art

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than in the coverage of rail lines (Urals), note being taken of the fact that the installation at TYURA TAM is of a size far in excess than that required for the launch of any suspected ICBMs or current ESV efforts.

1 - Ops DPD-DD/P
2 - DPD/DDD only file
3 - DPD-DD/P chrono

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